

moved uneasily beneath their burdens, like Enochian beneath Etha. Hence there have been insurrection, changes of dynasties, conquests, which last were usually a change of masters.

THE REPUBLIC.

Then there came our own movement in the last century to abolish the whole unnecessary load-bearing nobles, State, church, special privileges, all, and men thought they were free. But the burden was not merely in names, but in the thing itself, and when under the name of trusts, monopolies and corporations the same control is exercised in giving to the few the earnings of the many, humanity has the earnings of the many, humanity has the same old foes with new faces.

Let us contrast that which has been with that which is. On the books of the Nig standard pyramids, To build one of them would cost the unrequited labor of 300,000 men for twenty years. We know that it took 2,000 men six years to carry a single iron from Elephantine to Suez. Iron which have come to us in the last few years corroborate these statements of the old historian, Diocletius Silius, and say that these men toiled for the lash, with no return save barely enough leeks, onions and beans to keep them alive. All was done, the completed work was appropriately a tomb, useless for all time, save to gratify the vanity of some new king of death. Thus was squandered away the lives and labor of two peoples. The palace of Versailles cost the lives of another 100,000 men to minister to the vanity of a later king, and earth and its history have been marred by many another memorial of like nature.

On the same River Nile, further up at Assuan, in this present year, another great work has been completed, which is a great dam 12 miles long and quarter long, which will regulate the river and preserve the waters to be led by irrigating ditches to fertilize the soil and add many millions of acres to be tilled by the handman. It is now time to gratify the insatiable vanity; no lash swaying over the backs of unwilling laborers, and they received their modest wages in due season. Modern machinery has ended the expense and millions have been spent in a work of public utility, a substance to an increased population.

THE BRITISH BONDHOLDER.

But is there much change? British soldiers took and held Egypt. British financiers may require dividends on Egyptian bonds bought at a distance, and the laborer is left the barest necessities of life. The Assuan dam increases the available territory, and the number of laborers, but the tribute is collected with more humanity and more decency, and modern intelligence has supplied the means by which the laborer may create greater wealth than Pharaoh did to the British bondholder. He has his vanities to gratify, his own method of squandering the product of a nation's labor, and the British army always with government collect tribute to him. His pet vanity does not happen to be a pile of rock in the desert as a tomb.

But as regards the toiling laborer, wherein lies his condition, substantially different in the eyes of grace from that of his homeless ancestors who bowed their backs and toiled in poverty and pain that a privileged few should live in luxury in the thirteenth or fourteenth century before us, is that an alleviation of his much wearier the enjoyment of a fair share of the products of his own labor has the passage of fifty centuries brought to him in Egypt, where he is to do the work of life?

As you know, my brethren, that countless thousands in this fair Union of ours are asking themselves this question this day. When they look upon a blockade dollars a year, sold to a steel trust, granted to a thousand thousand men, to many others, and then in their own squad surroundings, they are debating the justice of the present distribution of wealth for all wealth is produced, and can be produced, by the working man, and must perish. These men are not Egyptian slaves, and when they demand they will not be denied. There is no higher power than that which is in the hearts of people when they are in the right, in their minds. It is wisdom, the highest wisdom to discuss, not put out of sight these social problems and aid if we can towards a just solution, for present they will remain as they are. The present government cannot and will not judge. Henry George well said: "To educate men who must be condemned to poverty is but to make them resolute to live on the state of misery, giving society instead of individual distinction. Under which men are theoretically equal, is to stand a pyramid on its apex." A million bayonets cannot support such pyramids upon their points.

"It fares the land to scatter men a prey when wealth accumulates and men decay."

ECONOMIC STRUGGLE.

This brief recital of facts, known to you all, will serve to show that history has been a long economic struggle by the wealth producers and that civilization has been exactly measured by the successive rise of the different strata of society to power. Those who have sold, then the middle class, then the exactions of monopoly granted by the crown, then now to Pharaoh, but to the British bondholder. He has his vanities to gratify, his own method of squandering the product of a nation's labor, and the British army always with government collect tribute to him. His pet vanity does not happen to be a pile of rock in the desert as a tomb.

THE PERSIAN DYNASTY.

The Persians, a noble mountain race, increased in wealth and developed the great conquered territories. When by the law-making power that wealth was permitted to accumulate, the wealth accumulated, and men died in a paper bag.

When the Roman peace spread over the countries around the Mediterranean, power and wealth multiplied, being no longer destroyed in tribal wars. But property passing afterwards into a few hands, the number of the people decreased as the barbarian tribes, the Roman hordes, and sweeping over vast tracts where the people had ceased to breed, laid the civilization of a thousand years in the dust. The historian tersely tells us that "the Persian and Italian, 'Great estates destroyed Italy.'

Out of the wreck, rose new kingdoms, dukedoms, countships. These leaders took the hands of hereditary nobles, placed them over the lands and the conquered inhabitants as serfs and called in the aid of religion to strengthen, by its influence over the minds of men, the bodies which carried wealth had for their bodies. And so the wealth, the sunburst masses moved uneasily beneath the burden of king, knight and priest. In one blinding flash of light there came the French Revolution, and it was the revolution that was unclouded. As Carlyle said, it was "Truth clad in hell-fire." It was a revolution led and controlled by the upper-middle class. The working class, however, had in it, except to a small extent, in the year 1789.

A few thousand heads fell beneath the guillotine. Of this crime, aristocratic writers have made the most, written for posterity, and the execution of those who have been depudated by every nation in turn—or will the new forces of organized labor win. The conflict is on, and is irrepressible. The mass of the masses of the world are the two opposing sides, with doubt and distrust upon the labor organizations, for they do not know yet how far they will go. This intermediate mass of the nation is open to the trusts, and the antagonism of these is given in practical, though not in form of legislation. France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Portugal, and the rest of the world are in the same position as the United States in the two preceding centuries. The permanent reforms brought about by that great upheaval have affected the whole world. Man-kind would still be at a low level, if the French revolution had not occurred.

The greatest soldier of the modern world climbed to power on the shoulders of the armed Republic he had created. As long as he was Democratic France accepted him, but when, forgetting the source of his power, he took a daughter of the Hapsburgs to wife, thus announcing his adhesion to the past, the French

CONFISCATE PROPERTY.

This and similar devices, utilized to

the same end, have been used by

the nobility and the

monarchs, and the

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